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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/908,934	07/19/2001	Shih-Ping Liou	2000P07785 US01	1038

7590 10/12/2004
Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Avenue South
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EXAMINER

POND, ROBERT M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3625

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/908,934

Applicant(s)

LIOU, SHIH-PING

Examiner

Robert M. Pond

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11-14, 20, 21, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tackbary et al. (patent number 5,555,496 hereinafter referred to as "Tackbary").**

Tackbary teaches a system and method of rendering product information based on database query. Tackbary further teaches

- Locating the relevant documents; generating relevant documents with respect to user query: initial sorting and filtering is performed automatically; relevant product information displayed based on customer query (please note examiner's interpretation: irrelevant information not

displayed) (see at least col. 10, lines 45-64); Order history database; automatic filtering to present the product the recipient is known to prefer (see at least Fig. 1 (105); col. 10, lines 57-60); category and sub-categories (see at least Fig. 8 (975-Religious; 985-Christmas)).

- System: user interface, product database, computer system; software executed on a computer (see at least Fig. 1 (5, 85, 115, 110); col. 3, line 66 through col. 4, line 58).
- Rendering a set of tabs on a user interface, each tab providing a perspective on product data

Tackbary teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches a) a user conducting a database query to search for product information, b) displaying searched product using filtering and sorting to display only relevant product information, c) displaying a tabular arrangement of broad product categories similar to notebook tabs (see at least Fig. 8 (990, 985, 995, 1000); col. 11, lines 1-10), d) displaying product subcategories, and e) tabbing calendar views in alphabetical order to organize data more efficiently for the user (see at least Fig. 6a (755); col. 9, lines 55-57). Tackbary, however, does not disclose rendering searched product information in tabular form by category and sub-category. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Tackbary to render the searched product information in tabular form in order of relevance for

category and sub-category, since one of ordinary skill in the art would ascertain organizing searched product information in tabular form by relevance by category and subcategory as an additional viewing convenience to the user, and thereby attract users to the service.

Pertaining to system Claims 1, 2, and 5

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 5 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

Pertaining to program storage device Claims 20, 21, and 24-26

Rejection of Claims 20, 21, and 24-26 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

- 3. Claims 3, 4, 15, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tackbary (patent number 5,555,496), as applied to Claims 1, 7, and 20.**

Tackbary teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches a) a computer based system and method of purchasing products using database query, b) users conducting a plurality of searches, c) displaying category and sub-category product information, and d) displaying product information in tabbed form based on relevance using filtering and sorting criteria, but does not disclose updating relevance of each category tab and sub-category tab. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Tackbary to update relevance of tabs, since

one of ordinary skill in the art would ascertain the need to update the tabbed categories of each search conducted by the user in order to keep the relevance information useful to the user, and thereby attract users to the service.

Pertaining to system Claims 3 and 4

Rejection of Claims 3 and 4 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

Pertaining to program storage device Claims 27 and 28

Rejection of Claims 27 and 28 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

- 4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tackbary (patent number 5,555,496), in view of Axaopoulous et al. (patent number 6,286,002 hereinafter referred to as "Axaopoulous").**

Tackbary teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches a) online database searches for product information, b) displaying product categories and subcategories, and c) making purchases based on searched product information, but does not disclose clicking on a help button to display a user summary to an agent. Axaopoulous teaches a) a method of accessing a database using a computer system, b) displaying product categories and subcategories, and c) making purchases based on searched product. Information. Axaopoulous teaches sending a search summary to an agent by clicking on an icon or active link, and further teaches the information lets other users better understand what products and services are desired (see at least Fig.

6 (630); Fig. 19; Figs. 25-27; col. 3, lines 24-43; col. 4, lines 1-22; col. 16, line 18 through col. 17, line 34). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Tackbary to display a search summary to an agent and other users as taught by Axaopoulous, in order to provide search assistance to the customers, and thereby attract customers to the service.

5. **Claims 9, 10, 16, 22, 23, and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tackbary (patent number 5,555,496) in view of Aalbersberg (patent number 5,946,678).**

Tackbary teaches all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teaches a) a computer based system and method of purchasing products using database query, b) displaying product information in tabbed form based on relevance using filtering and sorting criteria, and c) ranking information in alphabetical order (please note examiner's interpretation: lettering to display alphabetized order is an indicator of relevance to the user), but does not disclose a ranking indicator for tabbed product information using a color bar shaded to show relevance. Aalbersberg teaches a user interface for document retrieval using a distinctive feature to display relevance. Aalbersberg teaches a color-based display featuring a bar displaying individually colored parts of the bar to reflect weigh of the relevance of the retrieved information; a user telling at a glance relevant information (see at least abstract; Fig. 4 ((41, 43, 45); col. 2, lines

20-49; col. 5, line 45 through col. 6, line 20). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Tackbary to display a relevance indicator as taught by Aalbersberg, in order to help users determine the relevance of retrieved information at a glance, and thereby provide a user convenience that would attract user to the service.

Pertaining to program storage device Claims 22, 23, and 29

Rejection of Claims 22, 23, and 29 is based on the same rationale as noted above.

6. **Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tackbary (patent number 5,555,496) and Aalbersberg (patent number 5,946,678), as applied to Claim 10, further in view of Axaopoulous et al. (patent number 6,286,002 hereinafter referred to as "Axaopoulous").**

Tackbary and Aalbersberg teach all the above as noted under the 103(a) rejection and teach a) online database searches for product information, b) displaying product categories and subcategories, and c) making purchases based on searched product information, but does not disclose clicking on a help button to display a user summary to an agent. Axaopoulous teaches a) a method of accessing a database using a computer system, b) displaying product categories and subcategories, and c) making purchases based on searched product. Information. Axaopoulous teaches sending a search summary to an agent by clicking on an icon or active link, and further teaches the information

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lets other users better understand what products and services are desired (see at least Fig. 6 (630); Fig. 19; Figs. 25-27; col. 3, lines 24-43; col. 4, lines 1-22; col. 16, line 18 through col. 17, line 34). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the invention to modify the method of Tackbary and Aalbersberg to display a search summary to an agent and other users as taught by Axaopoulous, in order to provide search assistance to the customers, and thereby attract customers to the service.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- US 5,321,833 (Chang et al.) 14 June 1994; teaches adaptive relevance ranking.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mr. Robert M. Pond** whose telephone number is 703-605-4253. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Ms. Wynn Coggins** can be reached on 703-308-1344.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **703-308-1113**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

703-872-9306 (Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF")

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Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th floor receptionist.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert M. Pond', written in a cursive style.

Robert M. Pond
Patent Examiner
September 28, 2004